

Town of Lunenburg

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
P.O. Box 135
Lunenburg, MA 01462-0135



Jeffrey Mendoza, Chairman
Garrett Stillman, Vice-Chairman
Maureen Dupuis, Clerk
Douglas MacMillan, Member
Renee Trakimas, Member

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION **October 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Posted: Yes
Place: The Ritter Building
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: J. Mendoza, G. Stillman, M. Dupuis, R. Trakimas

Minutes Approval: Motion to approve by G. Stillman, Second by J. Mendoza. September 18th, 2014
Minutes approved.

Clerk Maureen Dupuis recused herself for the mediation/discussion concerning Highland Farm and the complaints issued by residents of Highland Street. The Chairman read the letter of complaints received and introduced guest speaker Brad Mitchell, representative of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau. Mr. Mitchell provided an overview of the definition of Public Nuisance and reaffirmed that the operators of Highland Farm are operating legally in accordance with local zoning regulations and building codes, and are not in violation of any local or regional Board of Health requirements. Discussion followed with suggestions toward remedying specific complaints and opening a continuing dialogue between operators of Highland Farm and the neighbors. It was suggested that the NCRS, Mass DAR, and other groups which support farm operations with expertise and possible funding assistance be contacted.

Commission founder and former Chairman, Jim Lattanzi, spoke on behalf of the operators of Highland Farm, and briefly about his experiences managing multiple agricultural properties and his experiences interacting with neighbors and property owners.

The discussion concluded with suggestions aimed at mitigating the complaints, an opening of future regular dialogue between farmers and neighbors, and the reiteration that all of the discussed possibilities for fencing, etc. are considerations, not requirements, as the operators of Highland Farm are operating legally according to all regulatory boards which have inspected the operation.

A brief discussion of the end of the Farmers' Market season followed. The possibility of an indoor winter market was offered as a way to continue to offer local meats and produce in the "off season." Consideration was given to expanding the number of vendors to account for the instances when an expected vendor is unable to attend the market. It was decided to compile a list of vendors who have been turned away in the past, or have stopped attending, in an effort to expand participation in the market.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 20, 2014 at 7:00 pm at The Ritter Building and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey L. Mendoza